

From: Karen Weber
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/13/01 10:23am
Subject: Re: Microsoft Settlement - Voice of Dissent

Calling the plan for Microsoft to give \$1 billion in refurbished hardware and software to the poorest schools a settlement would be laughable if it weren't so disturbing.

Microsoft makes no educational software save for its Windows platform and the Apple OS would not work on the refurbished hardware they propose on giving. Furthermore, if for example half of the \$1 billion settlement were to consist of MS software it would cost them nowhere near \$500 million . . .

As mentioned by countless others the education market is one of the few areas where Microsoft and the hardware makers that utilize the Windows OS do not dominate with Apple maintaining its fair share of the education market. If the schools received cash they would be free to choose the hardware and software of their choice which they believe would best serve their students and educators. The fact that Apple has continued to thrive in the education market while its overall market share is estimated @ 5% cannot simply be an accident.

At the very least the dissenting states proposal that Microsoft's Office Suite be compatible with competing software platforms must be condition of the settlement. It is a long held belief that Microsoft agreed to continue producing its Office Suite for the Mac platform due to Apple's agreement to feature Internet Explorer as the default web browser on the Mac.

The settlement as is cannot and should not stand.

Sincerely,
Karen Weber
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